

The Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development

MEMBERSHIP

The Rt. Rev. Richard L. Shimpfky (El Camino Real) 1997, *Co-Chair*
The Rt. Rev. James E. Folts (West Texas) 2000
The Rev. Richard H. Cobbs (Southwest Florida) 1997
The Rev. Carole J. McGowan (Rio Grande) 1997, *Co-Chair*
Mr. Donald E. Burke (Massachusetts) 2000
Mrs. Ruth A. De Melo (Dominican Republic) 1997
Ms. Iris E. Harris (Washington) 1997
Mr. Lawrence M. Knapp (Pittsburgh) 2000
Ms. Barbara G. Mann (Western North Carolina) 2000
Ms. Joon Matsumura (Los Angeles) 2000
Mr. Maunuel G. Mesa (Southeast Florida) 1997
Mr. John L. Harrison (Pennsylvania) *Executive Council Liaison*, 1997
The Rev. Hugh Magers, *Episcopal Church Center Staff Liaison*
Ms. Sharon Knight, *Assisting Staff*

Commission representatives at General Convention

Bishop Richard L. Shimpfky and Deputy Richard H. Cobbs, IV are authorized to receive non-substantive amendments to this report.

SUMMARY OF THE COMMISSION'S WORK

Introduction

Your Standing Committee on Stewardship and Development serves to hold before the church stewardship as that which enacts "Our Covenant with God;" giving witness and living commitment in time, talent and treasure to the Mission of this Church: To draw all people into unity with God and one another in Christ Jesus (BCP pg. 855). In a very busy triennium we experienced stewardship in the church in Costa Rica, brought to reality a stewardship video in Spanish, and addressed all of the goals for the triennium and set our goals for the next. Finally, we sponsored a conversation on mission stewardship with three noted theologians of our church and a theologian from another tradition.

Our Charge

The 66th General Convention, Denver, 1979, called the Commission into being and charged it:

1. to hold up before the church the responsibility of faithful stewardship;
2. to recommend a strategy for stewardship and education throughout the church;
3. to plan and recommend a program of long-range development;
4. to recommend a joint strategy for the various church agencies in their fund-raising efforts; and
5. to consider all national fund-raising proposals for its recommendations.

Meetings

The Commission met four times during the triennium: February 16-18, 1995, Ellenton, FL; October 12-15, 1995, Minneapolis, MN; Jan 31- Feb 3, 1996, San Jose, Costa Rica; and October 16-20, 1996, Santa Fe, NM.

Response to 1994 Resolutions

The Commission made the following disposition of the work committed to it for action by the 71st General Convention:

- *A048 Overcoming the sin of racism.* This was a priority for the Commission in all of its deliberations.
- *A116 Stewardship is Giving Witness.* The published resources from the Episcopal Church Center relating to stewardship have carried this logo and theme.
- *A120 Reaffirmation of the tithe.* Action completed at General Convention.
- *A135a Reaffirmation of 1% giving to seminaries.* The Commission is submitting a resolution to reinforce this in all congregations.
- *D099a Evaluation of strategic planning by the church.* No action taken due to parallel work by Executive Council with its diocesan consultations and the work of the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church.
- *D100 Publication of pledging statistics.* The Commission believes that this data would be helpful. The resources to access the data, however, currently are not available.

Mission Statement

At our first meeting we adopted the following mission statement for the triennium:

Our Mission is:

- to call this church back to being stewards of her mission – the extension of the Gospel, foreign and domestic, the relief of the saints, and the care of the Earth;
- to proclaim the diversity of stewardship stories in the church as gifts of God to be honored and shared; and
- to challenge the leaders and members of this church, present and future, not to be afraid.

Hispanic Stewardship

To assist Hispanic understanding and participation in the stewardship process of our church, a committee of bishops, priests, and laypersons was formed by the Hispanic Office and the Office of Stewardship to prepare and develop printed and video materials in Spanish. The committee prepared a seven segment video in Spanish with the following themes:

1. *Familia de Dios, Pueblo de Dios:* Family of God, People of God
2. *Somos una Iglesia:* We are one Church
3. *Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo:* We are the Body of Christ
4. *Camino y vocacion:* Journeys...Calling and Vocation
5. *Cualquier Don enriquece el Cuerpo:* Any Gift enriches the Whole Body
6. *Dar por gratitud:* Giving from Gratitude
7. *Mayordomia: Nuestro Pacto con Dios:* Stewardship: Our Covenant with God

Each segment has a suggested inductive bible study and a guideline with discussion topics. The setting for this video was at different churches in the United States with Hispanic congregations including the different races, countries, traditions and cultures they represent.

STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

The Hispanic Ministries Officer, the Rev. Herbert Arrunategui and his colleagues, in particular Manuel Mesa and the Stewardship Office, are to be commended for their excellent work.

We commissioned a theological study of the standards for corporate giving. This resulted in the following report calling for the tithe for individuals and 50/50 giving for congregations and dioceses.

MISSION AND STEWARDSHIP (Missiological Statement) Stewardship Consultation, Salt Lake City, 28-30 May 1996

Mission is...

God has lovingly and joyfully created heaven and earth. Human beings, however, have become separated from the triune God, turning away from God and one another. In the incarnation, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God provides the way by which all creation can be reunited with our loving creator and each other. Dying for us, Christ redeems us to new life. In Christ the commonwealth of God is made real and accessible for all. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we who are the children of God today proclaim and live out Jesus' work of reconciliation and redemption. The mission of the church is thus to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ (The Catechism, The Book of Common Prayer, p. 855). As God sent Jesus into the world, we are also sent into the world.

The history of salvation from creation to the present is based on the fact that God is the one who sends out (mission). The Holy Scriptures are the definitive chronicles of the work of the sending triune God. The truth of scripture is that God, the creator of all, gave the Son to make real reconciliation and redemption, and that the Holy Spirit is sent forth to empower God's people to participate in and bear witness to the commonwealth of God. Everything we need to know about mission is evidenced in Jesus' life.

Commissioned by baptism and enabled by the Holy Spirit, Christians are partners with God in God's transforming mission. We have the authority and responsibility to share God's love with a broken world. We do this through our baptismal ministries: prayer and worship, repentance and forgiveness, the proclamation of the Good News of God in Christ, loving service, and the striving for justice, peace, and the dignity of every human being (The Baptismal Covenant, The Book of Common Prayer, pp.304-305).

Every Christian is thus a missionary. Nourished by God's word and sacraments, Christians are sent into the world in God's name to bring hope, healing, and justice to a sinful, divided world. The God who is known in the Old and New Covenants works through set orders, (laity, deacons, priests, and bishops) and through the surprising and the unpredictable. Our calling is to herald and participate in the joy that comes in the reconciliation of creation with the triune God (John 17:13).

Stewardship is...

God's first gift to us was creation and our own place to be. God made us the stewards of the garden. Tending the garden entailed offering the first fruits, later to be known as the tithe (Genesis 1 and 2; Dt. 14:22).

When we failed to honor God and one another, God set two new standards: the new standard of giving is the life of Jesus, sent to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to God and each other (John 15, BCP p.362); the new standard of mission is the work of Jesus. Together these define the commonwealth of God.

In thanksgiving for God's gift of life, our response is to seek and save the lost, to announce life in abundance, to baptize, and to teach (Mt. 25,28). This is not the work of individuals, but of a community of worship and apostolic discipline, the church (Acts 2:42ff). St. Paul reminds us that, in the context of creation, Christ, commonwealth, and church, we are called upon to give of the gifts God has given us with thankful and joyful hearts (II Cor. 8 and 9).

We give as those who know we have been bought by the gift of the blood of Christ. Appropriate norms are:

- for individuals: the traditional tithe affirmed by successive General Conventions as the minimal standard of giving;
- for congregations: the apostolic tradition that half the budget should be spent on others (50/50 giving), one half of that to the diocese (Mt. 25:25ff, Mt. 22:38-40);
- for dioceses: also the apostolic tradition that half the budget should be spent on others, (50/50 giving), one half of that to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society in support of General Convention's budget for mission.

This approach is not law, but gospel.

Meeting Highlights

In continuation of the practice begun in the last triennium, the commission held one of its meetings in an overseas diocese, the Diocese of Costa Rica. We met with Bishop Cornelius Wilson, discussed stewardship issues with him and with representatives of his diocese, and visited a diocesan day care and secondary school in one of the poorest areas of San Jose. As in our visit to the Dominican Republic during the previous triennium, the experience in Costa Rica demonstrated how much valuable ministry is being accomplished with only minimal resources, and how important our stewardship is in helping to strengthen this ministry.

The Reverend James Hugh Magers

At our meeting in Santa Fe the Commission gave thanks for the ministry of the Rev. James Hugh Magers, who for more than four years served as Stewardship Officer in the Episcopal Church Center and as principal staff support for the Commission in its work.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 1995-97 TRIENNium

	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>
<i>Income</i>	\$16,250	\$16,250	\$16,250
<i>Expenses</i>	\$8,425	\$18,254	\$1,109

STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMING TRIENNium

During the next triennium the Commission will:

1. continue to teach that the tithe is the minimum model of giving for members for this church;
2. proclaim "Stewardship: Our Covenant with God" - "Mayordomia: Nuestro Pacto con Dios;"
3. continue the teaching and telling of stories of the apostolic principle of spending as much on others as on ourselves;
4. continue developing liaison with the theological seminaries of the church with the aim of strengthening the practice and teaching of stewardship theology, and to continue to promote congregation's giving of 1% of income to the accredited seminaries;
5. continue the development of teaching materials and opportunities for stewardship education which appropriately reflect the diversity of this church as evidenced by its regional, cultural, ethnic constituencies and wide range of ages;
6. develop a mechanism for gathering, interpreting, and reporting stewardship and church support data from the nine provinces of the church;
7. promote coordination among the agencies of the church in their public education, fund-raising programs and long-range development;
8. continue to make materials available for the development of narrative budgeting among parishes, missions, dioceses and institutions of the church;
9. make available a liaison between the Commission on Stewardship and Development and the Episcopal Ecological Network;
10. advocate the word "apportionment" replacing "assessment" in all documents of this church;
11. articulate a theology of endowments and capital funding;
12. work toward a greater diversity in age of members of the various committees, commissions, boards and agencies of this church;
13. help prepare for any movement toward taxation of church owned property and the elimination of the income tax deduction of charitable gifts; and
14. promote the establishment of stewardship partnerships between the Commission on Stewardship and Development and the rapidly growing Asiamerican population.

BUDGET APPROPRIATION

	<i>1998</i> <i>(2 meetings)</i>	<i>1999</i> <i>(2 meetings)</i>	<i>2000</i> <i>(1 meeting)</i>
<i>Expenses</i>			
Travel	\$16,080	\$16,480	\$8,400
Housing and meals	3,480	3,480	1,740
Subcommittee	500	500	
Consultants	500	500	
Administrative	100	100	50
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<i>Total</i>	\$20,660	\$21,060	\$10,190

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution A136 Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development Budget Appropriation

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the sum of \$51,910 be appropriated for the
2 triennium 1997-2000 for the expenses of the Standing Commission on Stewardship and
3 Development.

Resolution A137 Episcopal Church Center Stewardship Office Support

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal
2 Church provide increased financial resources to enhance the work of and expand the staff of the
3 Stewardship Office by two, one appointed and one support staff person (\$450,000 for the
4 triennium) with additional program support (\$600,000 for the triennium).

Explanation

Serious budget reductions in program and staff during the past triennium have damaged the impact of this essential work of the church. The remaining staff needs the personnel and resources to continue the work which they have struggled to maintain under adverse budgetary conditions.

Resolution A138 Stewardship Petition

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That this 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal
2 Church affirms the tithe as the minimum standard of giving for Episcopalians; and be it further
3 *Resolved*, That we the Deputies and Bishops of this Convention do hereby affirm through our
4 signatures that we are tithing, or that we have adopted, or will adopt, a plan to tithe within the
5 next three years; and be it further
6 *Resolved*, That we call all members of this Church to join us in accepting the tithe as the
7 minimum standard of Christian giving; and be it further
8 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Convention be directed to distribute signatory pages for
9 Bishops and Deputies of each diocese signifying their commitment to the tithe as the minimum
10 standard of giving; and be it further
11 *Resolved*, That the Secretary be directed to collect the signatures with this resolution and publish
12 the list of signators in the Journal.

Explanation

- The biblical standard of the tithe continues as the basis for the work of the Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development. It is the Commission's desire that this important matter be regularly communicated to all members of the church as a necessary goal for them to prayerfully consider.
- The members of the commission affirm this standard through our signatures, separately included with this report, and we present this resolution to the members of this General Convention for their approval, signature and action.

STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Resolution A139 Affirm 1% Giving to Seminaries

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal
- 2 Church affirms its commitment to the seminaries of the church and encourages all parishes to
- 3 continue or initiate a contribution of 1% of its budget income to one of the eleven accredited
- 4 seminaries of the church.

Explanation

The accredited seminaries have all experienced a decline in their support from the "1% Giving" method. The Convention needs to hold up this matter to ensure continuing quality education in the seminaries of the church.

Resolution A140 50/50 Congregational Giving

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal
- 2 Church call on congregations to spend as much on the care, concern and nurture of their neighbors
- 3 as on their own comfort and internal life, commending and asking all congregations to give half of
- 4 their income to God's mission and spend half on themselves (50/50 giving).

Explanation

Historically, Conventions of the Episcopal Church have affirmed through resolutions the apostolic tradition of 50/50 giving. It is important to affirm this vision of mission funding. This is a response to Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matt. 22:39).

Resolution A141 Episcopal/Lutheran Stewardship Cooperation

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal
- 2 Church urges the cooperation and integration of the stewardship education program of the
- 3 Episcopal Church with the program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Explanation

With the anticipated Concordat with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, stewardship education for both bodies can be enriched by cooperation and integration of programs and resources.

Resolution A142 "Stewardship, Our Covenant with God" "Mayordomia, Nuestro Pacto con Dios"

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That "Stewardship, Our Covenant with God" -
- 2 "Mayordomia, Nuestro Pacto con Dios" be adopted as the theme for stewardship resources
- 3 prepared by the Office of Stewardship for the next triennium.

Explanation

General Convention action in choosing a theme for stewardship resources gives credibility and clarity to the program.

Resolution A143 Implementing Hispanic Stewardship

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal
- 2 Church support the dissemination of the Hispanic stewardship video and training manuals,
- 3 prepared through an appropriation of a previous convention, by approving the expenditure of

- 4 \$40,000 in 1998 for training leaders to conduct eight regional training sessions at a cost of \$5,000
5 each for conference center costs, room, board and transportation for the participants.

Explanation

The recruitment and training of skilled persons is needed to conduct Hispanic stewardship training sessions. The Commission urges the General Convention to provide the necessary resources for this vital work.

Resolution A144 Sustaining Hispanic Stewardship

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal
2 Church authorize the expenditure of \$75,000 per annum (\$225,000 per triennium) for a part time
3 stewardship resource person who is linguistically and culturally Hispanic.

Explanation

The need to develop stewardship education and understanding in Spanish speaking congregations has been documented in the church. The 71st General Convention funded the preparation of materials which have been completed. The use of the excellent resources can best be implemented by a part time staff person and sustained program. This money will fund a part time position, that person's travel expenses and the cost of five regional training conferences for consultants/mentors who will carry out this program in congregations.

Resolution A145 Environmental Stewardship

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That a study be undertaken by the Stewardship and
2 Evangelism Officers of the Episcopal Church to ascertain if membership and giving increase
3 when a congregation incorporates active ecological concern into its program and we request
4 funding of \$8,400 be provided for this study.

Explanation

There is some evidence that both membership and giving rise in congregations with active environmental programs. It may be that doing good also helps us to do well. This study will determine if this is so.

Resolution A146 Planned Giving: Wills

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Planned Giving Ministries of the Episcopal
2 Church and the Episcopal Church Foundation include the concept of the rubric on page 445 of
3 The Book of Common Prayer by calling on all persons... "to make wills, while they are in health,
4 arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave
5 bequests for religious and charitable uses."

Explanation

The mission of the church can only happen if we return to God the bounty that has been given. What better way to guarantee the continuing mission than planned giving through your will or bequest.

STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Resolution A147 Inclusion of Young Adults on Interim Bodies

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That young adults be considered as members of
2 committees, commissions, boards and agencies of this church.

Explanation

A concern has arisen about our stewardship of persons in the 30-40 age range who are noticeably absent as members of our interim bodies. In order to have continuity in our church, we feel it is imperative to have the participation of individuals in this age group. These people are the new oak trees that with time and talent will bring the future treasure of this church.